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SEPTEMBER 1996

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Inside:

Seed Harvest Report

Compost Specifications

Rescring Damaged Soils

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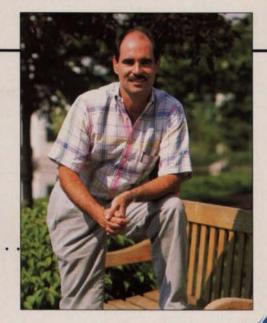


Lawn&Landscape

More Than 62,000 Subscribers Monthly

Charlie Ralph Lake Oswego, Ore,

Cover Photo



Cover Story

All for One Service, quality and innovation have kept Teufel Nursery at the top of the



green industry in the Pacific Northwest for more than a century.

Features

24 Good News, Bad News

Ideal spring and summer weather brought most turf seed farmers a healthy crop in the Pacific Northwest. Still, demand will likely surpass available supply for many varieties.

30 Compost Applications Get Specific



Agronomic, as well as economic benefits are causing more contractors to use compost for turf, top-

dressing and other landscape applications.

38 Software Part 2: Accounting for Everything

What began as a tool for developing financial statements has grown into much more as contractors take control of their accounting procedures.

46 Soil Basics Part 2: Rescuing Damaged Soils

Accidents do happen and roadside salt, spilled oil or product misapplications can change a healthy soil into an unhealthy mix. Quick action is often necessary.

52 What's All the Noise About?

Blower and vacuum makers have put most design issues on the back burner and focused their attention on noise emission. Because contractors rely on them so much, it's doubtful they'll disappear from the market.

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PUBLISHER'S FOCUS

Cindy Code Group Puhlisher



he lawn and landscape industry is fickle. Successful owners, managers and technicians, alike, are quick to realize this. They have to be, day in and day out, as they conduct the business at hand.

Contractors are also cognizant of the fact that they need assistance from their local dealer to make things happen. In an industry as reliant on performance and productivity as the landscape industry, things need to happen quickly. But do dealers feel the same way? Like any other business, the answer is yes, and no.

As the professional lawn and landscape market has matured so, out of necessity, has the distribution of power equipment. But as users of power equipment continue to put pressure on dealers to deliver priority service and deliver replacement parts on the spot, the dealer network has sagged, even faltered, under the strain.

Dealers, like contractors, know their customers and know the needs of their customers come first. The commitment, however, is hardly universal. As is often the case, dealers find the consumer market easier to service than the professional market.

The tide may be beginning to change, however.

At the recent Outdoor Power Equipment Show in Louisville, dealers, distributors, manufacturers and contractors gathered together for the industry's largest look at power equipment. Mowers, commercial mowers, in particular, were plentiful. At one count, more than 30 variations of commercial mowers were present.

With both dealers and landscapers in attendance at the show, we decided to survey attendees for their opinions on the power equipment distribution network. Dealers responding to our survey indicated they sell both consumer and commercial equipment, but those same respondees said revenues from product sales were nearly double in the consumer market. The surveys also showed that few offered 24-hour parts service to commercial customers....a sure pitfall if you're trying to gain the allegiance of a contractor.

Contractors, on the other hand, told us they still frequent the dealer, for the most part, for product purchases and that service is the number one consideration when selecting a dealer.

While many dealers are still following old patterns and ideals when it comes to equipment sales, they're missing a prime opportunity to delve into an established market that is annually willing to put resources into new equipment.

The lion's share of the 1996 landscape season may be behind us, but don't look now, 1997 is right around the corner and there's a great opportunity for contractors and dealers alike to become partners in growing their individual, yet mutual, businesses. Service is essential to residential and commercial customers as well as property managers across the country. Service should be the link between contractors and dealers. — Cindy Code

Lawn&Landsca

Cindy Code Group Publisher e-mail: 104656.702@compuserve.com

Susan Gibson Editor e-mail: 102770.56@compuserve.com

Paul Schrimpf Managing Editor e-mail: 104724.1204@compuserve.com

Bob West Assistant Editor

GRAPHICS/PRODUCTION

Mark Rook Creative Director Charlotte Turcotte Art Director Tracy Green Graphic Designer Helen Duerr **Production Coordinator** Lori Zachmann Advertising Production Coordinator

Rosalie Slusher Circulation Manager

Fran Franzak **Books Manager**

ADVERTISING/MARKETING

Maureen Mertz Publisher/East Coast Sales 1723 South Hill Milford, Michigan 48381

810/685-2065 Fax: 810/685-2136

Kendra Greenwald Account Manager Kevin Gilbride Account Representative

CORPORATE STAFF

Richard J. W. Foster President and CEO Christopher W. Foster Vice President/General

Manager

Manager, Sales and Jim Keefe

Marketing

Jami Childs Production Manager

EDITORIAL & SALES OFFICES

4012 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Phone: 216/961-4130 Fax: 216/961-0364

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The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation American Association of Nurserymen National Landscape Association The Composting Council

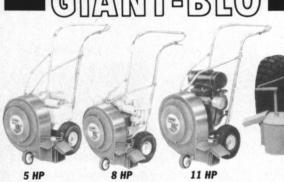


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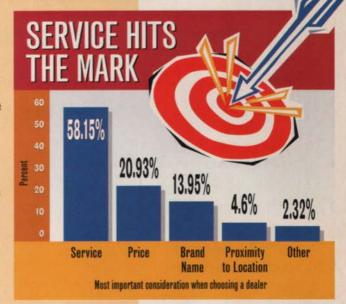
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CONTRACTORS RATE DEALER SERVICES

Productivity is a top priority with lawn and landscape contractors who participated in a survey sponsored by *Lawn & Landscape* magazine, held at the recent Outdoor Power Equipment Expo in Louisville, Ky. When asked the most important consideration in choosing a dealer, 58.15 percent said service was their number one concern.

Survey respondents also cited price (20.93 percent), brand name (13.95 percent), proximity to contractor's location (4.6 percent) and other reasons (2.32 percent).

An overwhelming 79.68 percent of respondents said they buy mowers and hand-held power equipment at dealers, compared to distributors (10.93 percent), mass merchandisers (4.68 percent), manufacturers direct (3.12 percent) and other sources (1.56 percent).



Source: L&L Industry Survey

NEW FIFRA LEGISLATION CLARIFIES SOME ISSUES, MUDDIES OTHERS

The reauthorization of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act was signed into law last month after nearly a decade of political wrangling, but it will be some years before the full impact of this legislation on lawn and landscape contractors comes to light.

The new "Food Quality Protection Act of 1996" provides pesticide manufacturers with some relief, but also brings the future of turf and ornamental pesticide registration into question.

Industry insiders agree that the new law's most important component is the replacement of the 1958 Delaney clause, which promoted a zero tolerance of pesticides on food. The new "safe" standard redefines pesticide residue tolerance as a "reasonable certainty of no harm."

On the negative side, the law

calls for the Environmental Protection Agency to perform a risk review of pesticides, taking into consideration every commercial, agricultural and consumer use of each pesticide to evaluate all possible exposure potential. According to Allen James, executive director of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environ-

ment, the EPA is responsible for developing formulas for measuring this total toxicology. Depending on how stringent these formulas are, it may cause some manufacturers to discontinue turf and

(continued on page 8)

GALENDAR

fo ensure that your meeting date is published, send an announcement at least 10 to 12 weeks n advance to *Lawn & Landscape*, 4012 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113. SEP. 25 Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Center Field Day, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact: 804/363-3906.

OCT. 7 Irrigation Association Certified exams, Fairfax, Va., and Fresno, Calif. Contact: 703/573-3551.

OCT. 10-11 Northeast Shade Tree Seminar, Portsmouth, N.H. Contact: 603/436-4804.

OCT. 19-21 American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Contact: 202/686-8353.

OCT. 23-24 Pacific Hort Expo and California Association of Nurserymen Convention, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact: 800/517-0391. OCT. 23-25 Composting in the Carolinas, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact: Ron Alexander, 919/460-6266.

NOV. 3-8 International Irrigation Exposition, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: 703/573-3551.

NOV. 7-9 Tree Care Industry Expo '96, Charlotte, N.C. Contact: 800/733-2622.

Nov. 12-15 Turf & Grounds Exposition, Rochester, N.Y. Contact: 800/873-TURF.

Nov. 13-15 Composting Council Annual Conference, Arlington, Va. Contact: 703/739-2401.

Nov. 17-21 Green Industry Expo, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact 770/973-2019.

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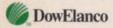
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(continued from page 6) ornamental labeling on some pesticides.

"If landscape use causes the total risk to be too high, we may see a reduction in the overall number of products available to landscape

MISSION STATEMENT:

AWN & LANDSCAPE magazine delivers superior, total coverage of the continually evolving professional lawn and landscape contractor market, from in-depth business trends and technical research reports to market analysis and new product introductions. For 17 years, L&L has provided industry presidents, business owners and top-level managers the most up-to-date information needed to effectively run their businesses.

professionals," said James.

Virtually all pesticides used in turf and ornamental applications will be subjected to this tolerance review over the next 10 years, and the law requires that the first one-third of these reviews be completed

in the next three years.

Another negative was the lack of a national preemption statute, which ended up being one of the compromises that allowed the bill to pass. James said the Democratic faction within the House Commerce Committee demanded that preemption be removed.

Tom Delaney, vice president of governmen-

tal affairs with the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, said that while state level preemption in 41 states has done well to keep local governments from passing restrictive pesticide application ordinances, there will still be legal battles all over the country that will cost companies and local organizations dearly in legal fees and time.

"A federal preemption law would have sent a clearer message to local governments who are dealing with lawsuits," said Delaney.

A positive aspect of the law for the industry, noted Delaney, is language that encourages states to establish training standards for all technicians, including those who are not presently required to be licensed. — *Paul Schrimpf*

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joined forces on a state-of-theart international sports complex at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., which is slated to open in May of 1997.

The new complex will have natural turf playing surfaces for more than 30 sports, including baseball, track and field and softball.

The 200-acre complex will have a quadraplex that will be the spring training home of the world champion Atlanta Braves, plus a "town green" for ceremonies and public events.

Toro's role in the project will include providing turf maintenance equipment and computerized irrigation systems, as well as application of the company's turf feeding systems.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

third-party administered drug and alcohol testing program offered by the American Association of Nurserymen will help contractors comply with regulations from the U.S. Department of Transportation requiring testing for CDL-licensed drivers. It has a buying group for lower test prices and also provides educational materials. Contact Bill Current at 703/764-0053 for information.

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America's Management Conference & Golf Classic will be held Jan. 17-19 in Tempe, Ariz. Management experts will present sessions on 1997's business outlook, motivating employees, performance evaluations,

compensation, recruiting and other management topics. Call 800/458-3466 for information.

The ALCA Educational Foundation has been formed by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America to award scholarships and fund educational programming in the landscape industry. Its goal is to reach \$500,000. For details, call 800/395-2522.

Turfgrass Producers International is offering members four different sets of 20 slides for educational presentations, company brochures and exhibit booths. The sets focus on environmental benefits, installation steps, beautiful lawns and sports actions. For more information, call 800/405-TURF.

The Irrigation Association has assembled a slate of veteran speakers to highlight its 1996 Expo, Nov. 3-5 in San Antonio, and it expects record breaking attendance. Call 703/573-3551 for program details.



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(continued from page 8)

IN BUSINESS.

L.R. Nelson Corp. purchased the assets of Micro Process Applications, Toulon, France... Bayer Specialty Products now offers a fax-on-demand service (800/842-8020) for turf and ornamental product information, MSDS and questions. ... Nibco Irrigation Systems' new interactive kiosks enable customers to learn more about the company's Pepco Professional low-flow irrigation products through in-store displays with touchscreens, audio and video tools...Plant Health Care, Pittsburgh, acquired Industrial Services International, Bradenton, Fla.

TRANSITION

Sandoz Agro named Berry Cothern turf and ornamental sales representative for the South region.

Chris Richburg is the new territory manager for Vigoro Corp. in Arkansas and parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Promotions at the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association include Amy Frankmann to vice presidenteducation and expositions, Laurie Roinson to director of membership development and Tim Malatinsky to director of finance.

ISS Landscape Management Services hired **Paul Hickman** as vice president of its golf division. DHM landscape architects promoted **Laura Kirk. William Bobzien** and **Daniel Kastelic** to associates.

James Quinn is a vice president for Plant Health Care after its merger with Industrial Services International.

Ball Seed named Jerry Mahoney director of supplier relations and Barbara Terrell account executive.

Nathan Wallace joined Vermeer Mfg. as a free product demonstrator, while Tom Ogle was named grinder products manager.

Jacklin Seed added **Hagen Ledeboer** as the manager of grower services operations in Oregon. **Harvey Fell** was appointed pond products group manager for Aquarium Pharmaceuticals.





Chris Richburg Hagen Ledeboer

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LANDSCAPE NOTEBOOK

PROJECT CHALLENGE: The magnificent Delta is the newest addition to the Opryland Hotel Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn. An indoor garden, 4.2 acres in size, stands at its center. Installation of the garden was performed in the spring of this year by Rentokil Inc., which previously installed the 2.5-acre Cascades Water Garden and the 2.0-acre Victorian Conservatory at Opryland.

The project includes a 20,000-square-foot antebellum style mansion, which is a restaurant that can seat up to 400 people; twin grand staircases at the mansion's front that overlook a 100-foot wide waterfall; a winding 1/4-mile long river to accommo-

date flat-bottom boats; a reflecting lily pond; a wedding pavilion; an island of multilevel buildings with shops and dining areas; and an 85foot fountain bordered by steps and tiered planter beds.

Parts of the project could not be reached by crane and in some cases, plants had to be brought in by forklift before the concrete floor was poured for the base of the riverbed.

Construction and traffic within the

ANDSCAPE NOTES

The installation project was 12 weeks from start to finish and was delivered two weeks ahead of schedule. When the garden was complete, the crew had off-loaded 44 semi trucks of plants.



PROJECT:

LANDSCAPE COMPANY: PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

SIZE OF PROPERTY: PLANTS INSTALLED:

PROJECT DURATION:

Opryland Hotel Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn. Rentokil Inc., Riverwoods, III. Denise Breitfuss, Rentokil Inc., Riverwoods, III. Chester Phillips,

Rentokil Inc., Atlanta, Ga.
Hollis Malone, Director of Horticulture
Opryland USA

4.2 acres under glass

44 semi trucks of plants, 379 specimen trees, 8,100 understory plants

12 weeks with a 10-man crew



riverbed increased as construction progressed. More than 1,500 tradespeople worked side by side with concrete trucks, forklifts and cranes to meet the construction schedule.

CLEVER SOLUTION:

Almost three years after construction began, the glass dome above the gardens was com-

(Above) Not all trees had the luxury of mechanical assistance for planting. Large podocarpus trees in the cavities of the riverbank cliffs had to be lowered by hand to the planting crew below. The workers were tied off with repelling lines on the steep cliffs. (Left) Rear planting areas of the Upper Delta required that trees be lifted to the upper elevation of the riverbank by a telescoping forklift. Once above the river, the trees were transported by hand on pallet jacks along winding pathways and steep inclines. Credit: Rentokil

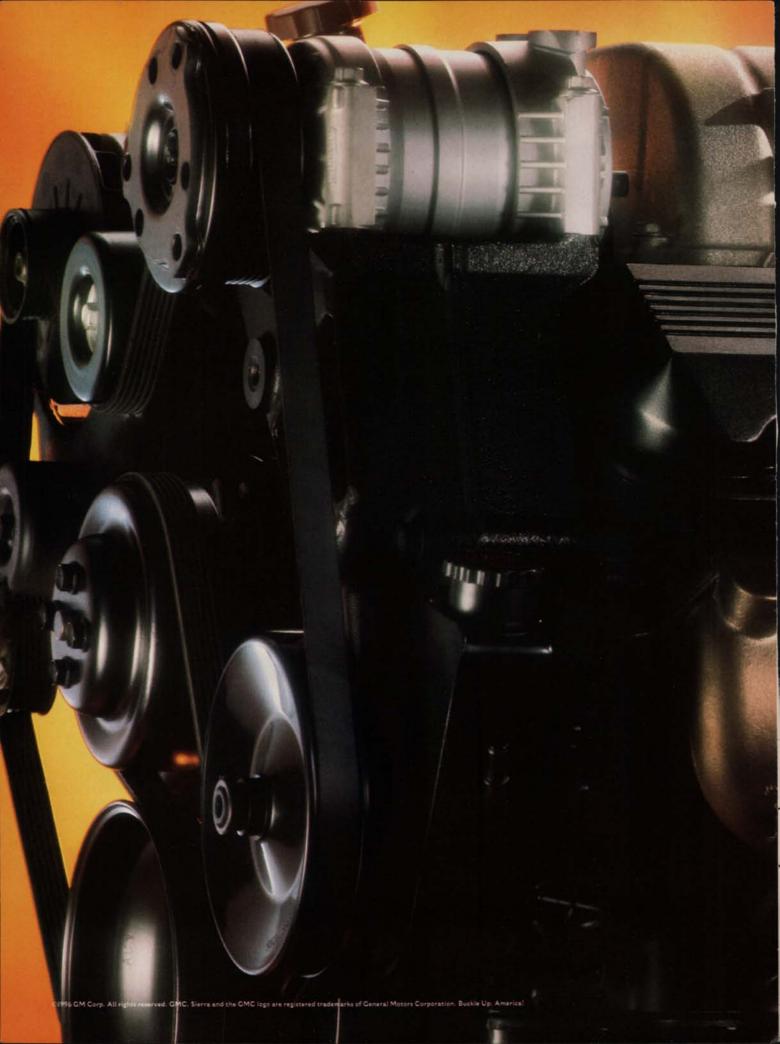
plete and Rentokil people came on site. Installation began in the palm court just outside the new convention center. Tall Sabal palms were moved by crane and planted along the walkway.

Large trees were brought in on flatbed trucks and skillfully maneuvered into position. Olive trees 35 feet tall and weighing 16,000 pounds each and had to be shipped in 8-foot by 8-foot crates.

Dozens of trees were rigged and hoisted by various methods. Rentokil built temporary bridges to extend into the riverbed where a forklift could lift trees above to the crew. Some trees had to be hoisted several times to reach planters at higher elevations. Once in position, the palms were stood by hand to an upright position. —Denise Breitfuss

The author is national project manager at Rentokil Inc., Riverwoods, Ill.







Service, quality
and innovation
have kept
Teufel Nursery
at the top of the
green industry in
the Pacific
Northwest for more
than a century.

By Paul Schrimpf



urviving for more than a century in the business world requires planning today to ensure that the future is secure for years to come. Teufel Nursery, headquartered in Portland, Ore., has thrived by trying new services and em-bracing innovations to make the company more successful.

Starting out in 1890 as a local wholesale nursery, Teufel pioneered nationwide plant material distribution in the Pacific Northwest. Much more recently, Teufel launched a landscape construction and maintenance firm.

After 13 years, landscape division manager Rick Christensen and his group of managers turned a new venture into a \$13.9 million operation, performing construction, irrigation and maintenance services for landscape clients out of two main branches — one in Portland, the other in Seattle.

Christensen said success comes when the owners, managers and employees all work for the same goal — maintaining the highest level of service and quality, and making decisions that help the company in the long run.

MASTERS OF INNOVATION. Throughout the company's history, the family owners of Teufel Nursery have tried to put the company out front by experimenting with technology and testing new methods of business against the status quo.

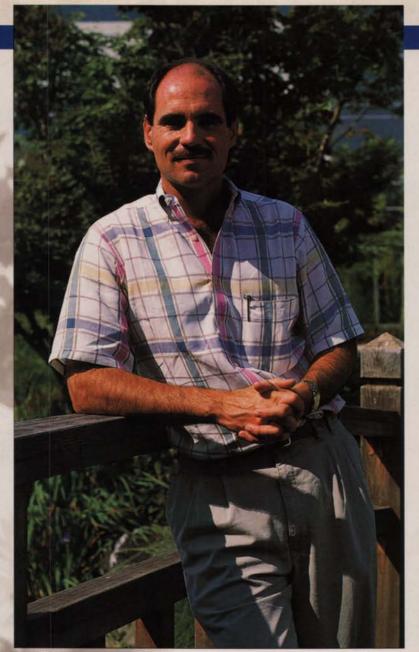
In 1890, self-taught gardener Gustav Teufel founded the company as a wholesale nursery after years of taking plant cuttings back to his greenhouse to propagate. His son, George, took the company a step further in the 1920s. He saw a potential market for growing live plant material to use in Christmas products, and set out growing hundreds of acres of English holly. Eventually, the project evolved into national distribution.

With a national distribution network in place, George began offering a wider range of plants and florists' supplies to customers. Then his son, Alfred, developed the nursery business, growing larger plant material and shipping it out of state via the rail system, one of the first companies in the state to ship to customers outside Oregon. Alfred also aided smaller nursery in the area and added to the company's business by buying their plant material and reselling to long distance customers using

(Above) Founder
Gustav Teufel, right,
and his son George
laid the groundwork
for Teufel to become
a green industry
giant in the Pacific
Northwest. (below
and left) Gustav
Teufel in his
company's early
years delivering
plant material to his
customers. Credit:
Teufel Nursery



Forune



Rick Christensen, manager of Teufel Nursery's landscape division, brought the division from ground zero to a leader in commercial landscape construction and maintenance. Credits: Charlie Ralph, Lake Oswego, Ore.

Teufel's distribution system.

Alfred's last major addition to Teufel was the creation of a wholesale horticultural supply division.

Larry, the fourth generation, made his contribution by starting up the commercial landscape business in 1983. Christensen, a recent college graduate at the time who was originally hired as the sales manager for the plant division, was chosen to head the effort.

THINKING BIG. The idea of opening up a landscape construction and maintenance

division was originally a solution to sluggish nursery sales in the early 1980s. "The landscape division became another means for us to sell our nursery stock — by actually doing the installation ourselves," said Christensen.

One of the pitfalls with planning a strategy to grow the new division was that area landscape contractors who buy from Teufel could become their competition. To avoid this, Larry Teufel and Christensen planned to take on only large, complex jobs.

"We started out with some tremendous advantages," explained Christensen. "We had

Teufel Nursery Inc.

HEADQUARTERS: Portland, Ore.
BRANCHES: Seattle, Wash., and a satellite
office at the headquarters of Microsoft Corp.
FOUNDED: 1890 by Gustav Teufel
OWNER: Larry Teufel, the fourth generation
of the family to own the business.

PRIMARY SERVICES: The landscape division of the business includes landscape construction and maintenance, irrigation design and installation. Nearly 100 percent of the division is commercial, and projects include golf courses, office complexes and corporate campuses.

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 260 landscape division employees covering all locations.

1995 LANDSCAPE SALES: \$13.9 million

1996 PROJECTION: \$14.6 million

Executive Summary

THE CONCEPT: Meet the customers' needs before everything else, producing high quality work at every site. Make decisions that will be best for the company in the long term.

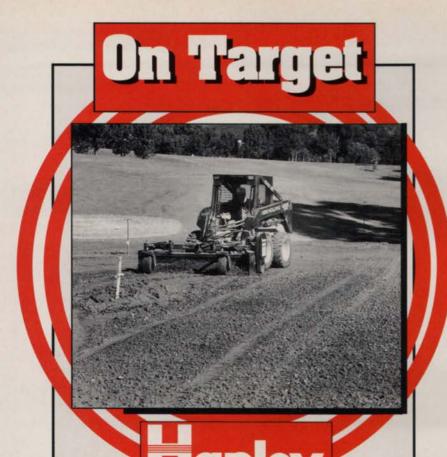
FUTURE CHALLENGES: Competing for qualified labor force with the explosion of high-tech job opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. Solving environmental issues related to landscape maintenance, such as reducing pesticide inputs and green waste.

Division Manager

RICK CHRISTENSEN

AGE: 38

BACKGROUND: Started with Teufel in 1983 as sales manager in the plant department after graduating with degrees in horticultural science and landscape architecture. He was chosen to start the new landscape construction and maintenance division within a year.



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cover story

resources in terms of horticultural supply and plant material, we were large enough to handle projects requiring high quantities of plant material, plus we have a tremendous reputation in the nursery industry for quality."

Taking on larger, more challenging projects other companies would find difficult, if not impossible, allowed Teufel to fill a market niche and establish a reputation in the landscape construction market more quickly.

The first six months of the landscape division's life, however, were a baptism by fire for Christensen. Like many new operators, he was doing most of the planning and financial work. In the meantime, he searched for the job that would break the company into larger opportunities. The main focus was on public sector opportunities.

commercial Breakthrough. The big break came when Teufel won a major landscape construction contract for Portland's airport. Christensen found himself hiring 24 people immediately and purchasing heavy equipment. The fledgling division was on its way.

Other public sector jobs followed, and Teufel's reputation for complex jobs grew. In 1986, the company landed the construction and maintenance contract for Microsoft.

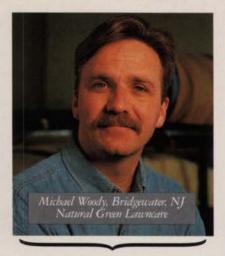
When Teufel started working with Microsoft, it wasn't nearly as big as it is today. It was originally two buildings on a large parcel of land that has been developed over the years. Today, some 3.5 million square feet of landscape has been installed, and is being maintained, by Teufel.

"Microsoft has an incredible campus that is a big part of their recruiting process," said Christensen. "It is set up to imitate a college campus because the company recruits so heavily from the colleges." The landscape mix includes sports fields, private areas for eating and relaxing and water features.

Teufel performs maintenance and construction on the site through a satellite office that remains open all year. There are 19 employees assigned to maintenance, while from 10 to 30 employees are stationed there for construction projects, depending on the construction schedule.

The company works through a landscape architect who is a consultant to Microsoft.

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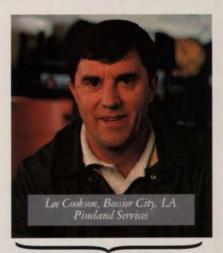
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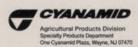
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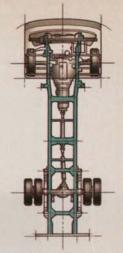
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"He calls the shots, and we deliver what is needed," noted Christensen. "It's a close team process, and because of the number of years we've been on the site, we have a lot of insight and are part of the decision making process. But ultimately, decisions about the site come from the landscape architect."

With a company like Microsoft, communication is important. One of the main ways that Teufel stays on top of maintenance issues and complaints is via electronic mail from the company's employees.

"Every person has a workstation, and each has our e-mail address," explained Christensen. "The employees help us monitor the maintenance of the landscape. It can be unnerving, but could you ask for a better monitoring system than 10,000 pairs of eyes?"

CORPORATE STRUCTURE. Working within the structure of a family business can be a chal-

lenge, but Christensen said the company's structure allows him to operate the division comfortably.

"It's not an overly structured environment here," he said. "We are given a lot of latitude by the owner for individual management styles.

"The family is very visible," he continued, "and they are at work every day, but it's a very large company and they

don't spend a lot of time in any one division. Larry believes in leaving management decisions to the manager."

Remembering that the corporate philosophy is making decisions for the long term and maintaining a good reputation helps Christensen stay focused.

"Ensuring the survival of the business for the next generation is key," said Christensen.

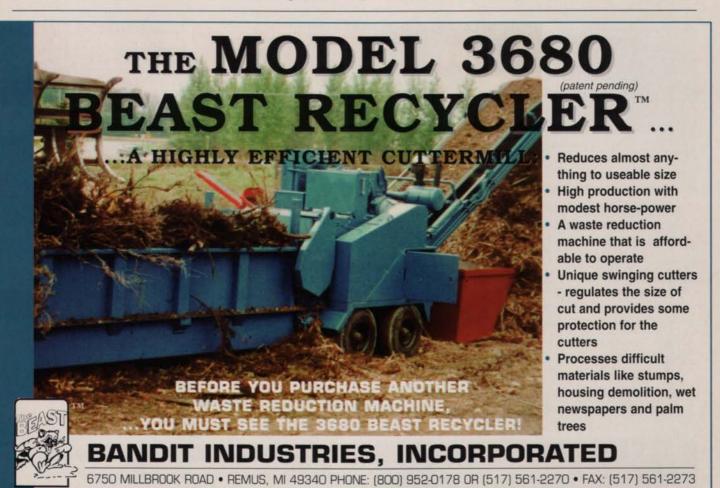


The landscape division team stays in sync through weekly meetings and constant communication. Left to right: Tom Horn, Rocky Regula, Christensen, Frank Barbour, Mike Kaiser and Pat Enstrom.

"It's something we always keep in mind."

The landscape division itself is divided into departments for irrigation, construction and maintenance with a mini-division for residential work. Teufel will also construct an average of one golf course per year.

Each department has a manager, and the managers are supervised by an operations manager within each branch. "The responsi-



bility of performance at each division falls on their shoulders," said Christensen.

Keeping track of the departments is a major challenge for Christensen, and he spends the first day and a half of each week ensuring that each department knows where it stands for the week.

The first meeting every Monday morning is with the plant buyer to discuss what jobs are coming in and to make sure plants are ordered and delivered on time. Then, he meets with the sales and estimating crew to look at potential new jobs and the status of existing work.

Next, Christensen gets together with his counterparts at other divisions in the company to share any problems they have. The operations manager and department managers within the landscape division then meet to discuss employment, equipment and material needs.

Christensen's last executive meeting of

the week is with the sales and marketing manager, the senior estimator and the office managers to go over what was discussed at the landscape division meeting. Finally, he ends the day in a session with his foremen to discuss jobs in the field.

On Tuesday, Christensen has 15 minute one-on-one meetings with key managers to discuss any other problems. Every other week

on Thursday and Friday he repeats the meeting schedule at the Seattle office.

EMPLOYEE FOCUS. The Pacific Northwest is drawing many high tech companies that are thinning out the qualified employment base with comfortable work environments and opportunities for advancement, which makes Christensen's job more difficult. Employee hiring, retention and safety are

Throughout the company's history, the family owners of Teufel Nursery have tried to put the company out front by experimenting with technology and testing new methods of business against the status quo.

> primary focuses at Teufel. He talked about it in a recent interview:

> Q. How do you hire quality people? A. I try to do as much of the recruiting and hiring myself as I can. I can't do it all but I enjoy being involved in the hiring and interviewing process and I take a lot of pride in putting together what I consider the best staff of people in this industry. We've retained a lot of our key people from the very



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beginning of this division.

We spend a lot of time in interviews. I can't get to know somebody in 15 minutes, so I'll spend an hour and a half with a first interview and if I have a good feeling about that person, I will bring him or her back for a second or third time and invite key staff to meet the person.

Q. What do you do to expand the pool of potential hires?

A. We do a fair amount of recruiting of college students. We support local employment programs, we use the Associated Landscape Contractors of America Student Career Days and we get involved in internship programs at colleges. We've had students from as far away as Germany.

Q. Do internships generate employees for Teufel?

A. We have generated some employees. When we don't get the person back, they may end up talking to other students about their experience here, though, and we'll get more interest in internships. Hopefully, all the good internship experiences that students have will result in new employees, directly or indirectly.

Q. You mentioned that the company places high importance on safety. How so?

A. Along with weekly tailgate meetings, we post a large board at the employee entrance of each facility listing the current number of days we go without a lost time accident, and the all-time record for no lost time accidents. We provide cash incentives to employees for each month we go without a lost time accident.

We employ a full-time safety officer who coordinates a safety committee. The committee includes representatives from the entire company. They discuss safety issues and incidents monthly and record them so any employee can find out what's happening.

Q. What happens when accidents occur in the field?

A. We determine whether the employee was at fault and what action should be taken. Can we learn from it? If we can, we make it a topic for a future tailgate meeting. We also post notices on the safety board.

A. We include safety gear in all the trucks. This includes orange cones, markers, flares, signs, goggles and first aid kits that are inventoried every week.

We stress to employees that we are serious about safety and that there's no reason for accidents to occur. We try to demonstrate our emphasis on safety to clients and the industry.

Teufel Nursery is located at 12345 N.W. Barnes Avenue, Portland, Ore. 97229. The phone number is 503/646-1111, fax number is 503/644-2906.

The author is Managing Editor of Lawn & Landscape magazine.

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Godnews, Badnews

Ideal spring and summer weather brought most turf seed farmers a healthy crop in the Pacific Northwest. Still, demand will likely surpass available supply for many varieties.

By Paul Schrimpf



Winter floods, herbicide damage and a high slug population threatened some fields, but ideal spring and summer weather kept harvests at average to above average levels. However, low carryovers and other factors will keep total availability generally tight. Credit: Jacklin Seed Co.

f the predictions of seed marketers come true, the days of high surpluses in most turf seed varieties are over — at least for the next couple of years. Despite mostly above average yields in the Pacific Northwest this summer, quantities of turf seed in the supply pipeline will be the tightest they've been since the 1980s.

Seed marketers point to both higher demand and less acreage for growing many varieties as the primary reasons for the shortages. The popularity of overseeding in the Southeast is continuing to grow, expanding markets for perennial ryegrass and other species, while extensive heat and drought in the Midwest and Northeast last summer forced the replacement or renovation of many turf areas this past spring.

All this additional consumption has left little carryover supply for distribution to end users this fall and spring. So despite good harvest numbers this summer, supplies will mostly fall short of demand while prices will generally be stable to higher.

Art Wick, vice president of research and development with LESCO Inc., Rocky River, Ohio, noted that available acreage for crop production has gone down in part due to the rising price of wheat and other alternative cash crops that are more cost effective to grow than turfgrass. Farmers in a position to choose a crop will generally choose what will provide the best return on investment that fits into their crop rotation scheme.

STRONG FINISH. The turf growing season in the Pacific Northwest was fraught with peril. Floods, especially across western Oregon, were a primary concern for farmers with acreage along river banks because of the chance of weed seeds spreading where banks spilled over into fields.

As it turned out, flooding was not the problem many feared it might be. The real villian was the activity of herbicides used to control weeds.

Under certain weather conditions, the herbicides act against the turf crop, causing a reduction in the overall harvest. Unfortunately, the conditions favored herbicide damage, and there was some crop loss, especially in tall fescue and perennial ryegrass fields.

Another negative factor was an explosion of

Field Burning Is Still a Hot Issue

he practice of field burning has been used for years to clear turf production fields of stubble and weeds before the next growing season. And although legal restrictions in Oregon have forced the use of herbicides in place of burning for fescues and ryegrasses, Kentucky

bluegrass growers primarily in Idaho and Washington have continued to use the burning method.

Authorities in Spokane, however, have started the process of prohibiting the practice of burning. An emergency rule mandates a one-third reduction in field burning this year, an additional one-third reduction in 1997 and a total ban in 1998.

Gayle Jacklin, assistant vice president with Jacklin Seed, Post Falls, Idaho, predicted a long term impact of 50 percent to 75 percent reduction in bluegrass yields coupled with a 50 percent to 75 percent increase in pricing to end users if the regulation stands. The quality and purity of the seed will be reduced, she said, and farmers will need to work harder to maintain their yields resulting in a loss of planted acres and higher prices.

Public hearings are under way, and the industry is continuing to lobby but it will not be known until later this year if the regulations will stand, change or be struck down.

the slug population that actually wiped out some fields, according to Keith Laxton, operations manager at Seed Research of Oregon, Corvallis, Ore.

The saving grace for turf farmers and marketers was outstanding spring and summer weather. Frequent spring rains gave way to summer heat and dryness, allowing fields to be swathed and seed to be cleaned with little difficulty. Only one mid-July cloudburst delayed the harvest by about a week in most areas, but it should not seriously hinder marketers' efforts to get the seed into the supply pipeline.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD. While the overall reports from the field are good, some species performed better than others.

(continued on page 28)

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seed harvest report

(continued from page 25)

Kentucky bluegrass producers said yields were outstanding this year. Dennis Combs, president of Combs Agriculture Consultants and vice president of Fine Lawn Research, Lake Oswego, Ore., estimated that common variety fields delivered 15 million pounds more seed than last year, and proprietary production came in 5 million pounds above 1995 levels. "It's been an extraordinary year for Kentucky bluegrass," said Combs. "It's been a solid performer all year."

"Quantities of Kentucky bluegrass, both common and proprietary, look very good," agreed Scott Harer, sales and marketing representative with Advanta Seed West, Albany, Ore. "Although I do see some shortages in sod quality seed."

"Bluegrass is yielding well," said Bob Richardson, general manager of Lofts/Great Western, Albany, Ore. "Commons should be in good supply, but proprietary varieties will be about the same as last year and should sell out as they have the past several years."

Tall fescues fared similarly well in pounds of seed per acre, but marketers say there's just not enough fields planted to fill orders.

Combs said his figures show a 5 million pound increase in tall fescues from 1995 to 1996, but a significant decrease in carryover from last year. "We went through close to 200 million pounds of turf-type tall fescue seed last year, and we won't have 150 million to sell this year," Combs predicted.

Another factor that should influence the price and availability of turf-type tall fescue is the disastrous crop failure of the Kentucky-31 variety, due to unfavorable weather conditions in Missouri, Tennessee and western Kentucky where the crop is grown. John Zajac, president of Zajac Performance Seeds, North Haledon, N.J., said the harvest was estimated at less than half normal production.

"I've heard that Kentucky-31 production is about half to 60 percent of normal levels," agreed Tom Stanley, director of marketing with Turf-Seed Inc., Hubbard, Ore. Stanley estimated prices on tall fescue will be up about 35 percent.

Perennial ryegrass supplies will also include about 5 million pounds less in carryover, despite average to above average yields of seed per acre. The species was among the most damaged by herbicide use, but the outstanding spring and summer weather kept yields at or a bit above average.

Harer noted that demand for perennial ryegrass varieties has been extremely high, and expects that supplies will be very tight this fall and spring.

In fine fescues, Harer said that end users of seed have "finally used up years of inventory, and availability will be tight as well."

Individually, seed producing companies had their own observations about the seed harvest, pricing and availability this fall and spring. The following is a summary of their comments.

FINE LAWN RESEARCH, LAKE OSWEGO, ORE.

The harvest met or exceeded expectations across the board, but low carryover will make supplies short, Combs explained. He also reported the company is working with Michigan State University, East Lansing, to explore uses for Fine Lawn's Supranova poa supina bluegrass. The species, which is said to be both highly shade and wear tolerant, is being researched as a potential indoor sports turf in the future.

Jacklin, seed co., Post Falls, IDAHO. Gayle Jacklin, assistant vice president, said the current bluegrass crop is coming in above average on slightly less acres than 1995, and quality is good.

New varieties available this fall from Jacklin include two Kentucky bluegrasses. NuGlade features good leaf spot, rust and snow mold resistance and shade tolerance, according to Jacklin. BlueChip offers disease, heat and drought tolerance as well as good winter color and early spring green-up, she noted. Jacklin will also be offering a new Idaho bentgrass called GolfStar.

LESCO INC., ROCKY RIVER, OHIO. Wick noted there are many factors keeping inventories of seed species low and end user cost high this year. The factors include low inventories from last year, low production acreage and the high price of alternative crops such as wheat. Other important issues are reductions in open field burning, reduced availability of some pesticides critical to the clean production of seed and unusual weather conditions in the Pacific Northwest.

Seed marketers point to both higher demand and less acreage for growing many varieties as the primary reasons for the shortages.

......

LESCO is offering two new tall fescue selections, Bravo and Stetson, that were screened under severe brown patch, pythium and low pH stress. Other selections include Line Drive and Stardance perennial ryegrasses, Defiance hard fescue and SunDance seeded bermudagrass.

LOFTS SEED CO., BOUND BROOK, N.J. Carryover of perennial ryegrasses and tall fescues are at an all-time low, according to Richardson. Tall fescue yields appear to be on the high side of average, but with no carryover and a bad K-31 crop the supply

carryover and a bad K-31 crop the supply will fall well short of demand. Slug, chemical and flood damage should keep perennial ryegrass harvests down to average at best.

Lofts will offer the first major commercial production of its L-93 bentgrass and Laser II poa trivialis and will release its new line of four ryegrasses that were tested under the NPRH name. At press time, names for the varieties were still being selected.

PENNINGTON SEED, MADISON, BA. Ronnie Stapp, vice president of seed operations, said many of the company's varieties are booked and nearly sold out. "We're almost completely sold out of perennial ryes," Stapp noted.

Duster, a new turf-type tall fescue in its first commercial production, will boast extra dark green color and fine leaf texture, according to Stapp. Pennington will also introduce a new creeping red fescue, Flyer II, this fall.

THE SCOTTS COMPANY, MARYSVILLE, OHIO.

Wet spring and dry summer weather, ideal for growing and harvesting turf seed, made up for the flood, herbicide and slug problems that nature brought upon perennial ryegrass and tall fescue fields early in the growing season, according to Kevin Turner, Scotts' manager of seed research and production in Gervais, Ore. Harvests were average to above average, but quality may be in question due to weather that favored the persistence of poa annua in some fields.

Common Kentucky bluegrass harvests came in "solid," Turner noted, but a winter frost in regions of eastern Oregon kept proprietary varieties around average. Despite the positive

outlook, low carryover will mean tight supplies and stable to higher prices on these turf varieties.

Scotts will introduce two new varieties of perennial ryegrass, Majesty and Divine, featuring dark green color and fine texture.

SEED RESEARCH OF OREGON, CORVALLIS, ORE.

Tall fescues had an average to somewhat better than average harvest, while fine fescues were a "mixed bag," according to Laxton. "Availability of seed will be tighter than it has been in several years," he said. A continued mild summer in the Midwest and East may ease demand to some degree.

SRO will present the first major commercial release of two perennial ryegrasses, SR 4400 and SR 4410, featuring disease tolerance and better persistence under heat and drought stress, according to Laxton. Also new this fall are SR 8210 and SR 8200 tall fescues, featuring low growth habit and fine texture.

TURF MERCHANTS INC., TANGENT, ORE. President Steven Tubbs said yields are looking average to above average, although the final harvest got a dose of rainfall that delayed cleaning and processing about a week. The delay set orders back a bit but should not affect seed availability to any great degree.

Turf Merchants is releasing a new poa trivialis, called Stardust, that it hopes will dent the overseeding market, as well as Zen, a new high quality seeded zoysiagrass.

TURF-SEED ING., HUBBARD, ORE. Yields on tall fescue were up, but Stanley said the poor K-31 crop and low number of production acreage will keep supplies tight and prices up. "Seed companies have attempted to get more areas planted, but at this point the

(continued on page 70)



USE READER SERVICE #26

well as

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use compost

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for turf,

ne of the most popular uses for compost is amending soils that are to be seeded or sodded with turf. Many states are now choosing to include compost in their procurement legislation in hopes of creating markets for locally produced compost products. However, there is still a gap in many procurement processes, especially when it concerns specifications.

The landscape contractor or designer on each job needs a detailed point of reference—a specification—to follow. The specification must be simple and easy to follow without a lot of cumbersome red tape.

ESTABLISHING TURF. Why use compost for turf establishment? Agronomic benefits include reducing compaction, increasing drainage, increasing nutrient exchange capacity, increasing moisture retention and reducing erosion potential of soils. Many contractors also claim using compost helps increase the speed and total percent germination of turf seed and increased knitting of roots for sodded projects.

Economic benefits include offering a product capable of enhancing project performance while reducing total costs. Because most soils lack the ideal level of organic matter, compost can provide this missing link while remaining affordable. Here is an example of possible economic savings:



TYPICAL ROADSIDE TURF ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT

- 15 acres of new seeding to be done in the median
- Current specification calls for a loamy topsoil to be added at a depth of 4 inches (the soil must have a pH of 6 to 8 and an organic content of at least 3 percent).
- Current subsoil is a clay loam with organic content of 2.8 percent.
- Cost of topsoil is \$10/yard delivered to the site.
- Compost is available at \$15/yard delivered to the site.

Most contractors will view the compost delivered at \$15 to be quite high on a per yard cost comparison. However, if the objective of the project is to establish turf and

(continued on page 32)

Smaller landscape areas can be topdressed by raking compost out into star shaped patterns using normal garden rakes. Credit: Rod Tyler

By Rod Tyler

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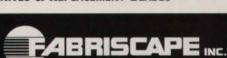
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HU1004	1000	Gallon	16 HP Vanguard	\$9.995



USE READER SERVICE #29

compost

Turf Establishment Specifications

DESCRIPTION:

This work consists of applying compost to native soil and rototilling the resulting layers to achieve a uniform blend capable of increasing the density and vigor of seeded or sodded turf areas.

MATERIALS:

Compost shall be dark brown or black in color, and capable of enhancing plant growth. 98 percent of the materials shall pass a 1-inch screen. There shall be no admixture of refuse (i.e., noticeable inert contamination) or other materials toxic to plant growth. The compost shall be free from foreign objects larger than 1 inch in diameter. Acceptable compost may be derived from strictly natural organic sources such as food or animal residuals, yard trimmings or biosolids. Acceptable ranges of test results for compost used for this application are listed below.

TO	DADAMETED	ADDEDTABLE	DANDEO
:01	PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	KANDEO

Pathogen/weed seed Proof of EPA minimum heating requirements destruction (minimum of 55 degrees C for 5 days)

BH* 5.5 - 8.0

Heavy Metals less than maximum limits established by EPA

Organic Matter Content 30 - 75 percent (same products should vary less than 5 percent per year)

Inert Contaminants Less than ½ percent by weight

Maturity/Stability Material should be "cured" for at least 30 days

Soluble Salts (Conductivity) 0 - 5 mmhos for sensitive plants

*Gertain plant species may prefer various pH ranges and the final growing medium should be adjusted accordingly.

METHOD OF MEASUREMENT:

Compost will be measured by the cubic yard prior to dumping of site.

CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES:

Compost should be applied at an average depth of 1 inch and incorporated to a depth of 5 inches using a rototiller or other device. Compost can be used to cover seed instead of straw, if applied at a 1/8- to 1/8- inch depth. Normal fertilization practices should begin once turf is six weeks old. Water thoroughly after planting.

(continued from page 30)

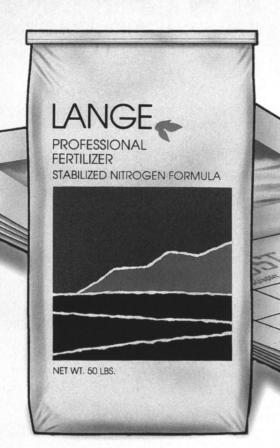
have it survive for a number of years, a 2-inch layer of compost applied to the current site and incorporated to a depth of 5 inches would work quite well.

TOPSOIL OPTION

Take a 4-inch application over 15 acres totaling 8,100 cubic yards.

8,100 cubic yards x \$10 = \$81,000 \$1/yard application cost = \$ 8,100 Total project costs = \$89,100

(continued on page 34)



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USE READER SERVICE #42

(continued from page 32)

ALTERNATE COMPOST OPTION

Take a 2-inch application over 15 acres totalling 2,025 cubic yards.

2,025 cubic yards

x \$15 = \$30,375

\$1/yard application

cost = \$ 2,025

\$100/acre

incorporation cost = \$1,500Total project cost = \$33,900

Seeding and fertilization costs have been removed from this example because they will be similar for both. Or will they? Remember, compost has a low level of fertility but when used in high volumes, can contribute significantly to soil fertility. Most of the nitrogen in compost is contained in the organic form and available over time as weather and soil conditions permit.

As a result, the project using compost will probably not need additional fertilizer as

long as the compost is mature and of high quality. Reducing the need for fertilizer costs on the compost option widens the margin in the example.

There are a number of variables to deal with in the above example. Obviously, both projects are weather dependent, but the compost option may be easier to complete in damp weather. Many contractors

have used drier compost products for turf establishment, especially when operating in native soil on the borderline of being too wet. The addition of a 1-inch layer of compost helps soak up surface moisture and provides another layer for equipment to move around on (before the compost is incorporated) without getting stuck in the mud. Some contractors have actually used compost dumped in the barway to new sites

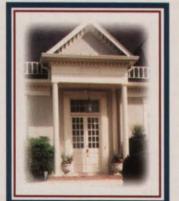
Agronomic benefits include reducing compaction, increasing drainage, increasing nutrient exchange capacity, increasing moisture retention and reducing erosion potential of soils.

and spread 2 inches deep for this purpose.

In many state DOT manuals, the word "compost" is not even listed in the materials sections, rendering the use of compost on any state project impossible unless a contractor is able to convince the project manager that compost is an "approved equal" to materials listed.

Take the specifications below and those (continued on page 36)

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USE READER SERVICE #32

compost

Turf Topdressing Specifications

DESCRIPTION:

This work consists of applying compost to existing turf to help increase organic matter, reduce compaction and increase the density and vigor of existing turf areas.

MATERIALS:

Compost shall be dark brown or black in color and capable of enhancing plant growth. 98 percent of the materials shall pass a ½-inch screen. There shall be no admixture of refuse (i.e., noticeable inert contamination) or other materials toxic to plant growth. The compost shall be free from foreign objects larger than ½-inch in diameter. Acceptable compost may be derived from strictly natural organic sources such as food or animal residuals, yard trimmings or biosolids. Acceptable ranges for compost used for this application are listed below.

TEST PARAMETER

Pathogen/weed seed destruction

pH*

Heavy metals

Organic matter content

Inert Contaminants

Maturity/Stability

ACCEPTABLE RANGES

Proof of EPA minimum heating requirements (minimum of 55 degrees Celsius for 3 days)

5.5-8.0

Less than maximum limits established by EPA

503

30 - 75 percent (same products should vary

less than 5 percent/year

ninants Less than ½ percent by weight
bility Material should be "cured" for at least 30

days

Soluble Salts (Conductivity) 0 - 5 mmhos for sensitive plants

*Certain plant species may prefer various pH ranges and the final growing medium should be adjusted accordingly.

METHOD OF MEASUREMENT:

Compost will be measured by the cubic yard prior to dumping on site.

CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES:

Compost shall be applied at an average depth of ½ to ½ inch and worked into the turf using a grass rake, drag unit or other device. Water thoroughly after application and follow normal fertilization practices.

(continued from page 34)

listed in Lawn & Landscape, July 1996, (page 72) and forward them

to your local landscape specifier or compost manufacturer to help increase the use of compost at the local level. Slight changes to the specifications may be necessary, but in general, most quality composts will fall within the confines of the values listed here.

The author is a certified professional agronomist and free-lance writer in Medina, Ohio.

COMPOST INFORMATION

The specifications in this article are from Rod Tyler's book, Winning the Organics Game — The Compost Marketers Handbook, published by the American Society for Horticultural Science Press, Alexandria, Va. Telephone is 703/836-4606.

Other composting resources are available from The Composting Council, Alexandria, Va., at 703/739-2401.

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Homer Jackson, H.J. Lawn Service, Houston, Texas

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What began as a tool for developing financial statements has grown into much more as contractors take control of their accounting procedures.

By Bob West

Estimating modules eliminate many errors and help to make each job more profitable for contractors. Credit: CoRoN

e couldn't function without it," affirmed Dave Van Zelst, president, Van Zelst Inc., Wadsworth, Ill.

What single part of his company's business could be that important? Surely he must be referring to his fleet of trucks or his line of mowers, right?

At Van Zelst, with its 100plus employees and nearly 40 trucks, it's the company's accounting software making everything happen in a sensible and profitable manner.

What is this industry coming to when landscape

contractors consider accounting software as important to their success as their mowers? It's coming to a

point in time where contractors embracing new technology will grow and thrive, while those refusing to recognize the changing climate of business itself may put themselves on the endangered species list.

"In this day and age, success is based on the technology we use," noted Van Zelst.

BEYOND THE BASICS. Accounting software has developed so rapidly since its introduction to the green industry in the late 1970s that calling it accounting software doesn't do it justice.

Larry Cantor, president of Computer Systems Approach, Fullerton, Calif., explained his company's basic package allows contractors to put all customer information on a route and schedule it, list equipment needed for each job, note special add-on services, automate monthly billing, create work or-

(continued on page 40)

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software series — part 2

(continued from page 38)

ders for each job and convert them to invoices and general financial statements.

Most software vendors' products include similar offerings, as well as add-on modules contractors can use to supplement the system. "Computers are making a significant impact now as they get the right information to the right person at the right time," noted Jim Huston, president, Smith Huston Inc., Orange, Calif., a green industry consulting firm. "All of this technology is being used to help contractors do their jobs in a more cost effective way."

"The beauty of a vertical market package is how it marries accounting and manage-

ment together so you're doing both at the same time," said Dave Tucker, owner of Sensible Software, Gaithersburg, Md. "Most of the work with our software is done when it indicates what jobs are scheduled for the day. Then, as you tell it the jobs were performed, the accounting is done automatically. The only accounting the contractor does is push a button once a month to print the bills."

Software vendors are also quick to emphasize the time savings contractors enjoy with these programs. "All the contractor has to do is input information on a timely basis," according to Steve Skuropacki, president, SPS Consulting, Cranford, N.J. "And every time bills get out on time, it will improve cash flow and make the company's image much more professional."

GIVE ME AN ESTIMATE. "Estimating drives a contractor, not accounting," declared Charles Vander Kooi, an industry expert on estimating practices and president of Vander Kooi & Associates, Denver, Colo. "It drives everything contractors do and must be done in a way that they can verify estimated values against real values, or else they may be losing money and have no idea why."

Estimating modules have become the heart and soul of accounting software because they simplify this important process for contractors and ensure the accuracy of bid proposals.

"Computers will never replace an estimator, and they can't estimate for you," Vander Kooi continued, "but they have a tremendous memory, so repetitive tasks can be stored and the contractor can use just the database and change the data for each job."

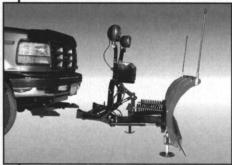
And as every contractor knows, the accuracy of a company's bids goes a long way to determining the health of its bottom line. "A contractor can only stand one bad bid out of five and survive, so anytime you can improve your bidding accuracy you increase your profits," said Vander Kooi. "A good system can take a contractor to just one bad bid out of 10 and let him or her process 20 to 30 percent more bids."

Tucker said that using estimating software is just one way contractors can get a solid grasp on their companies' complete financial situations. "All of the job profits

(continued on page 42)

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A million dollar per year "entrepreneur of the year" says that most of his peers' and competitors' marketing is anemic, me-tooistic, dull, full of costly waste, and ineffective. Arrogant? Egotistical? Marty Grunder says: "React to me any way you like-but one thing is for sure, if you are in the landscaping business or maintenance business, whether you are small or large, my marketing methods can easily double or triple your business in just one year, provide better customers, help you target and get exactly the kind of business you want, increase profitability and stability, and absolutely mystify and trump your competitors.'

Big talk? Yes, it is, but this Grunder wiseacre has been showing off-and blowing sceptics away—his entire life. As a freckle-faced, red headed Dennis-the-Menace type kid, he started his business with nothing more than a "push" lawn mower and chutzpah. That little business went to 75 regular customers almost overnight. As a full-time student at the University of Dayton, while his buddies drove to school in old "beater" cars and flipped burgers for pocket money, Marty arrived in his Grunder Landscaping Company truck and, at age 21, did over \$300,000.00 in business. This year he was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Small Business Administration's Midwest Region, in the 1 to 25 employees category. Currently, Marty oversees a staff of 30, 15 trucks, a backhoe, an assortment of other equipment, and a diversified business doing everything from basic residential lawn maintenance to complicated commercial landscaping projects-and, this year, breaking the one million dollar mark in annual sales. He's also investing in land, lecturing from time to time, and working with other landscapers as their "marketing coach."

Million Dollar Marketing Secrets Revealed In A Free Report—If You Qualify!

Grunder DOES have "secrets" for building these types of businesses, too. Here are just a few examples:

- 1. How to spark referrals... how to turn "small accounts" into big business.
- How to increase Val-Pak Coupon, directmail and Yellow Pages advertising results by 10% to 30%...make your advertising much more productive and be able to accurately measure its value.

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Here's the smart-aleck kid standing next to his first truck. Who'd have guessed he'd quickly create the biggest and best company in southern Ohio, confound established, entrenched competitors, and break the million dollar annual sales mark? Betcha he has a marketing secret or two in his pocket that you'd love to steal, if you could!

- How to avoid the fatal mistake of confusing 'marketing' with 'selling'.
- 6. Forget wasteful "name recognition" or "getting your name out there"—learn to "target," create and deliver a "market-matched" message," and attract exactly the type and size of clients you really want.
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- 10. How to get people working for you and with you to really contribute like a championship team!
- 11. How to use "<u>automated, autopilot</u> marketing" to bring in new business without you or anyone else even talking with prospects on the phone!
- Even "poor boy" dirt cheap marketing strategies, like what to write on a simple postcard to bring in a flood of new customers.

- 13. The "4-Page" marketing tool used 6 to 10x a year that is guaranteed to increase your business by at least 30% year after year...automatically!
- 14. How to position yourself as a "famous expert" in your area, get a ton of free advertising and "fry" the competition.

And there's a whole lot more. At the urging of a big-time, nationally respected direct marketing consultant and professional speaker who discovered and was "blown away" by everything Marty was doing, Marty prepared an easy-to-read but very complete, provocative Special Report—"How To Re-Invent Your Lawn-Garden/Landscaping Business With Million Dollar Marketing Secrets"—and you may be able to obtain a copy at absolutely no cost whatsoever.

Who Should Get Marty Grunder's Special Report?

Marty asks that you call for his free Report ONLY if: (1) you own your own business or are the President, CEO, manager or marketing manager for the business; (2) you make the decisions about advertising, marketing, and customer service investments; (3) you are currently unhappy with some aspect(s) of you business; (4) you recognize that in today's competitive environment, just "doing a great job" isn't enough to

sustain a business; and (5) you are willing to make progressive innovative changes in your business if convinced, even reasonably assured that doing so will dramatically improve sales, profits, customer satisfaction, referrals, growth, and community prominence. (Please do NOT waste your time or Marty's money getting this Special Report if you are close-minded, change resistance, fully satisfied with your income, or just a curiosity-seeker without sincere interest in changing your business for the better.)

How To Get Your Free Report:

Simply write "Report" on your business card or a sheet of your letterhead and FAX it to 513-847-8067 or, for even more information and to get your Report, call 1-800-399-7135, listen to a brief free recorded message, then leave your name, company name, and address as instructed. You can FAX or call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you prefer having your report sent confidentially to your home address, just let us know. Incidentally, requesting your free Report does not obligate you in any way; no salesperson will call to follow-up, nothing of the sort. However, this is a limited free offer, so please take care of it right now, while it's fresh in your mind.

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Softdesk landscape marketing tools show you how to use new technology to build your business by closing more sales faster.

USE READER SERVICE #35

software series — part 2

(continued from page 40)

can be rated in man-hours so you know precisely what you're charging for jobs and which jobs are producing the most for your business," he commented. "As a manager, this tells you who is your most efficient employee or crew and helps you distribute your payroll more accordingly so you don't lose your good people."

TAKING THE PLUNGE. Extensive research will be necessary to find the best system for your business, and cutting corners can lead to wasted time and money. "Hardware should always be purchased after a consultant examines your software needs," Skuropacki instructed.

But Huston warned contractors to thoroughly examine any software before making a purchase. "Estimating establishes the key standards by which you run a business," he said, "and if you have a flaw there, it's going to filter down through your business."

Tucker recommended contractors focus on technical support offered by vendors instead of shopping for the lowest price. "Contractors understand that good equipment costs money," he said. "The biggest things to customers are technical support and education."

Vander Kooi agreed too many contractors reject the idea of computerizing their finances because of the initial cost of setting up a system. "About 80 percent of contractors do less than \$500,000 in sales a year, so they're not too excited to spend a lot of money on technology," he explained. "But they're not thinking

Every time bills get out on time, it will improve cash flow and make the company's image more professional.'

about how much money it can save them."

Interested contractors should be ready to commit fully to integrating the system with their operations for it to be a success. "Using this software isn't easy," admitted Gary Thornton, president of Thornton Computer Management Systems, Maineville, Ohio. "It requires looking closely at your business, and in doing that, you'll find things that need to be changed. That becomes part of the computerization."

Van Zelst took the plunge and went through a painful learning process. "It was definitely tough to learn and get going, but we had reached the point where I couldn't keep track of anything with the old style of accounting," he remembered.

Now computers are an integral part of his business. "We just made a large investment in our office, and one priority was to make sure the proper networking was in place to accept upcoming advancements in technology. We're committed to it."

This is the second in a three-part series on software for the landscape industry. Next month's article will focus on management software.

The author is Assistant Editor of Lawn & Landscape magazine.

No Room **For Error**

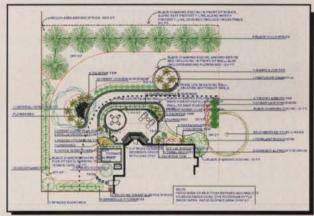
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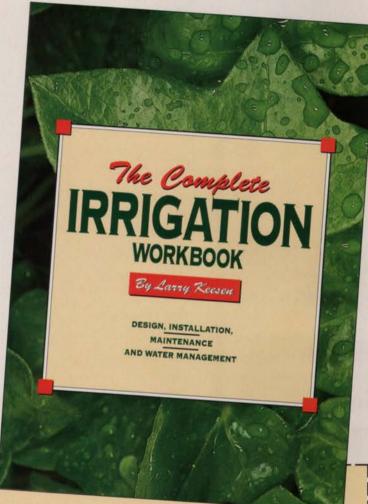
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Rescuing

Healthy Soils

Accidents do
happen and
roadside salt,
spilled oil or
product
misapplications can
change a healthy soil
into an unhealthy
mix. Quick action
often is necessary.

By C. Neal Howell

ave you ever dealt with problems like salt damage and accidental petroleum spills? Ever had a hydraulic hose burst right in the front yard of a half-million dollar home? Although you and your employees may have never used the wrong herbicide, you may someday need to know how to correct that problem, too. How about a yard that just refuses to green up? What about fertility problems — can you overdo a good thing?

These circumstances can cause real soil problems, but they don't have to be perpetual problems. Understanding the problem will help you determine the correct solution.

FIGHTING SALT DAMAGE. Tree lawns take a lot of abuse in summer heat when cars' dump exhaust fumes on already stressed turf. When winter comes, a real tragedy occurs. As the salt trucks spread salt and other chemicals on the streets, the materials are thrown up onto the tree lawns. Plows come down the street to push off the snow and slush laden with salt residue, which also ends up on the tree lawn. As the weather warms, the water carries the salt right into tree lawn turf.

Salt damage usually results in reduced root and shoot growth in turf, an increased tendency to wilt, leaf tip burn, as well as white deposits on the soil surface.

A secondary problem occurs as salt causes the soil structure to break down, resulting in severe compaction, which prevents water and air from reaching plant roots. Overall, turf plants lose vigor and are generally replaced with more aggressively growing weeds.

Depending on the severity of the damage, there are several ways to correct these problems. First, a heavy aeration followed by several deep irrigations may flush the salt and chemicals out of the root zone. Next, an application of a wetting agent along with deep irrigation may help move the sodium out of harm's way.

If those steps are not sufficient, an application of sulfur or gypsum may be needed to chemically displace the sodium ions. Irrigate to move the sulfur or gypsum into the soil profile. Allow seven to 10 days for the

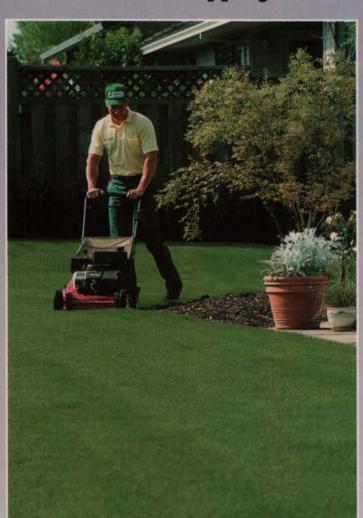
(continued on page 48)



Salt damage caused by ice melting chemicals may reduce turf growth, burn the leaf tips and leave white deposits on the soil. Salt may also break down the soil structure, causing severe compaction. Turf-Seed suggests you <u>plan</u> <u>ahead</u> the next time you

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(continued from page 46)

reaction and then irrigate heavily to flush the impurities out of the root zone. In some cases, you may need to reseed. In extreme cases, new sod may be the only viable solution, but make sure it is installed after the accumulated salts have been removed.

HANDLING OIL SPILLS. Prevention should be the first rule with oil spills. Never, never add fuel or oil to a piece of equipment while on turf or other growing plants. Always service equipment where a spill can be cleaned up with a minimum of fuss and damage.

Despite all these good intentions, what

happens if you spill some type of petroleum product on the soil or if a hose bursts and oil or gasoline runs into the soil?

Symptoms of petroleum injury are a general browning of the turf with a shiny, water soaked appearance and the smell of oil. Plant leaves start to roll. Damage is usually confined to a specific area.

For small areas, sprinkle immediately with either a powdered detergent or a liquid dish soap. Rinse plants with a strong stream of water to break down the petroleum product and use a wet/dry vacuum to remove any suds that may form.

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HE 16 ESSENTIAL nutrients must be present in the proper proportions to allow normal growth. If any one element is omitted or not supplied in sufficient amounts, growth will be curtailed.

Nitrogen is the element required in the largest quantities by turfgrass. Dark green color increases as the amount of available nitrogen increases — up to a point.

As available carbohydrate reserves are consumed, high rates of nitrogen can actually cause death of the plants' root systems since the plant needs new carbohydrates for its new shoots. Increased nitrogen rates can also increase plant damage due to water stress or drought. The tendency of plants to wilt or dry out in winter can also be caused by nitrogen levels that are too high.

Overapplications of nitrogen are difficult to correct. Heavy irrigation, along with applications of balancing phosphorus, potash and micronutrients can help ensure that carbohydrate levels do not drop to the danger point.

If immediate corrective action cannot be taken, the turf and soil may have to be removed and replaced.

For areas that may have been marginally affected, use normal cultural practices and give the areas extra attention to diagnose and correct future problems.

Unfortunately, it's not the petroleum product that actually kills the turf, but the high temperature of the oil as it spills from the hydraulic hose. The turf is usually dead within minutes of being hit with hot oil. In these cases, replacement may be the only viable alternative.

ing Way

Phosphorus is used in smaller amounts than nitrogen and is seldom a problem unless repeated application of high P fertilizers are made year after year. Elevated phosphorus levels can tie up micronutrients like iron and form insoluble compounds. Correct for overapplication by repeated applications of an acidic iron. Phosphorus is seldom lost by leaching, so irrigation wouldn't help.

Potash helps increase drought tolerance, rooting, heat and cold hardiness, disease resistance and wear tolerance. It is seldom used in excess amounts, but it is readily leached by irrigation and rainfall.

Micronutrients can be applied to excess and because of plants' minimal requirements, exercise care, especially with boron. Research has shown that turf is capable of doing very well with higher levels of iron, zinc, manganese and copper. High rates of iron and manganese continue to be used with little or no detrimental visible effects. Always use care and follow label rates for micronutrients.

MISAPPLICATION BLUES. What about chemical spills and misapplications? Depending on the product, the application rate, the time and the method of application, solutions are varied. In descending order of effectiveness, they include: activated charcoal, aeration plus heavy irrigation, heavy irrigation alone,

incantation and burnt offerings.

With some chemicals, a quick application of water may help wash off the leaves' surfaces before it has time to work. For products absorbed through the leaves like some herbicides, you may only have a few minutes to try this method. For soil-applied





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soil basics — part 2

herbicides, the activated charcoal remedy may be the best alternative.

Activated charcoal works by absorbing the chemicals with which it comes in contact. Finely ground activated charcoal is best. Charcoal works on some chemicals but is ineffective with others. Be sure to consult the label and understand that some damage is difficult to undo. Always follow label instructions.

NOT GREENING UP. Have you ever applied the "right" fertilizers and still had complaints from customers about poor color? Did you check the soil pH?

In many areas of the country, a high soil pH will frustrate even your best efforts to make it green. A soil pH of 8.0 or higher can deactivate most of the micronutrients needed

On problem lawns, a portable pH meter can give you needed information in a few minutes for a few pennies per test.

for quality plant growth and can prevent the plant from producing chlorophyll to give the desired green color.

There are conditions where a low soil pH, which should enhance micronutrient pickup (especially iron), has created a pronounced iron deficiency. As the soil pH drops below 7.0, micronutrients tend to become more available to plants. Unfortunately, if some micros like zinc, copper or aluminum are present in greater amounts than needed, they will become extremely attractive to plants as the pH drops. These micros will be preferentially absorbed to the exclusion of iron, causing iron deficiency.

On problem lawns, a portable pH meter can give you needed information in a few minutes for a few pennies per test. Once an out-of-kilter soil pH is identified, you have

Limestone Levels for Acidic Soil

Approximate amount of finely ground limestone required to correct soil acidity (expressed in pounds per 1,000 square feet)

FESCUES	BLUE, BERMUDA AND RYEGRASS		
SANDS & SANDY LOAMS	LOAMS & CLAYS	SANDS & SANDY LOAMS	LOAMS & CLAYS
0	0	0	0
0	0	25	35
25	35	50	75
50	75	75	100
75	100	100	100
	SANDS & SANDY LOAMS 0 0 25 50	SANDS & SANDY LOAMS LOAMS & CLAYS 0 0 0 0 25 35 50 75	SANDS & SANDS & SANDS & SANDY LOAMS 0 0 0 0 0 25 25 35 50 50 75 75

Table 1.

an excellent opportunity to offer add-on applications to set things right.

If the soil pH is low (4.5 to 6.0), apply finely ground limestone to raise the pH to an optimum level of 6.5. In areas which are deficient in magnesium in addition to having a low soil pH, use dolomitic limestone. It contains magnesium as well as calcium.

Gypsum, which also contains calcium and magnesium, will not appreciably affect soil pH and should not be used to raise pH.

Applications of lime should be made during the late fall, winter or early spring. For northern regions, early winter or late fall are good application times. Water in the applications for success.

Soil with a high pH can severely limit

micronutrient uptake and also reduce the effectiveness of nitrogen fertilizers. On soils that are only moderately alkaline (7.4 to 8.5), elemental sulfur can quickly correct the soil pH. Exercise care when applying soil sulfur. Limit application rates to five pounds or less per 1,000 square feet per application. Sulfur applications should not be made during the heat of summer when turf is suffering from moisture stress.

Don't overdo a sulfur application, but make an application, wait several days and allow the irrigation or rainfall to wash the sulfur into the soil before making another application.

Check soil pH between applications. Correcting the soil pH will do wonders toward

achieving the degree of turf color your customer desires.

Applying liquid iron products by foliar spray can sometimes correct color problems prior to achieving optimal soil pH. On soils with high amounts of free calcium and a high soil pH, a soil application of sulfur will sometimes allow foliar micronutrient sprays to work better when they're applied.

The author is an industry consultant with Key Solutions, a division of Iris Sales & Solutions Inc., Rocky River, Ohio.

Sulfur Specs

Approximate amounts of elemental sulfur (95%) required to lower soil pH to 6.0-6.5 (in pounds per 1,000 square feet)

ORIGINAL SOIL PH	LOAM Soils	SANDY SOILS	CLAY SOILS	
7.5	18	12	23	
8.0	34	28	46	
8.5	57	46	69	

Table 2.



What's All the Noise About?

Manufacturers
emphasize the
importance of proper
operator technique
when using blowers
so the units can be
operated efficiently at
less than full throttle
on occasion. Credit:
Little Wonder

Blower and
vacuum
manufacturers
have put most
design issues on
the back burner
and focused all of
their attention
on noise
emission issues.

By Bob West

rotests by environmental activists and community groups across the country are forcing manufacturers to focus current design efforts on building quieter products. Legislators in Los Angeles are now considering an ordinance to ban gas-powered backpack blowers within 500 feet of a residence. Contractors, however, continue to call for products with more power, leaving manufacturers in a bind.

"The reason (for the protests) is relatively easy to explain," noted Robin Pendergrast of International Marketing Exchange, McHenry, Ill. Pendergrast is a spokesman for Echo Inc., Lake Zurich, Ill. "Blower noise is part of a bigger environmental picture. Growing population centers generate more noise than ever. There's more air pollution today, or at least more concern about it — not to mention closing landfills, recycling and other green-related issues. Add to this more new homes — with lawns and landscapes and professional users to keep them clean — and the stage is set for blower restrictions."

QUIT YOUR WHINING. Making a quieter blower or vacuum isn't just a matter of muffling exhaust noise. It also deals with controlling the type of noise created.

"The noise levels produced are not super high now," commented Pete Fernald, technical services manager, Shindaiwa Inc., Tualatin, Ore. "but it's the high pitched whine that needs to be controlled."

"It's tough for manufacturers," noted Gary Hardee, manager of power tools at Stihl Inc., Virginia Beach, Va. "Users want high performance, but if people start restricting air flow they're also restricting productivity. So there is definitely room for some entrepreneur to come up with a better impeller design."

Dave Navroth, director of sales for Little Wonder, Southampton, Pa., agreed that the pitch of the sound is a primary concern. "The impeller ripping the air through the housing is the problem," he said. "So we're looking at different fans, housing designs, paint, intakes — the whole works."

Navroth added that limiting noise emissions is less a concern now for walk-behind units. "Walk-behinds are lucky since they're primarily used in the Northeast and most noise issues seem to be out West." Local initiatives certainly aren't relegated west of the Rocky Mountains, however. Governments in Boston, Orlando, St. Louis, Chicago and New York are also considering blower restrictions.

(continued on page 54)

From the University of California! PESTS of LANDSCAPE TREES and SHRUBS: An Integrated Pest Management Guide

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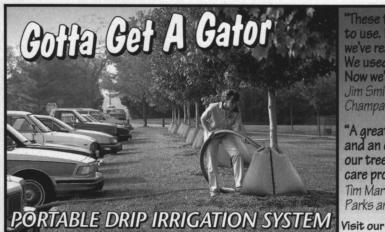
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(continued from page 52)

Heather Geddings, marketing coordinator for Husqvarna Forest & Garden Co., Charlotte, N.C., said along with addressing noise emission issues, her company relocated the throttle handle to the hose from the backpack itself so it's more accessible for the user. "We also improved the perfor-

mance of the bag when the unit is used as a vacuum," Geddings added. "So that's been entirely redesigned as a larger bag with a new dust liner to not let particles through."

The growing competitiveness of the blower market lead Encore Mfg., Beatrice, Neb., to decide to quit manufacturing blowers and leave the market all together. "This is such a tough market to be in," explained Dick Tegtmeier, president. "It's expensive equipment to produce, and we couldn't reach the numbers we needed to make it."

PRODUCTIVE DESIGNS. While many contractors consider autumn's falling leaves a plague because they can slow down mowing jobs, more contractors are embracing this fall cleanup for a potential add-on service.

"The leaf blower market today is moving in a good direction," remarked Tony Janiak, vice president and general manager of Giant-Vac Mfg., South Windham, Conn. "I see a lot of contractors moving from backpack blowers to walk-behind models because they're fighting to keep the bids reasonable while labor costs increase. So they're looking for machines to do the job more efficiently."

Janiak said the real value of walk-behind units is the horsepower, ideal for clearing entire properties. "The walk-behinds with 8 to 16 hp are becoming more popular because of the volume of air they move and the time they can save on larger jobs."

Manufacturers are also working to make walk-behind units versatile enough to vacuum, chip and blow or bag materials at the same time. "Contractors want a machine to gather and shred clippings on site so they can move on without having to stop to dump clippings," stated Tim Gilbert, marketing director, Patriot Co., Milwaukee, Wis.

COMMON SENSE CONTROL. The future of blowers is more uncertain than any other landscaping tool. Manufacturers emphasize, though, the important role contractors can play in controlling the fervor against this indispensable tool. "Contractors should be

responsible when establishing the parameters for doing the job, while the manufacturers need to do their engineer-

> Versatility is one key feature of walk-behind blowers and vacuums. Credit: Patriot Co.





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Husqvarna's 225HBV hand-held blower weighs 11.2 pounds with a 25.4-cc cylinder volume and optional mulching kit.

Circle 232 on reader service card

The Makita RBL500 backpack blower weighs 19.2 pounds and has a 48.6-cc engine.

Circle 233 on reader service card

Maruyama's BL 400 backpack blower weighs less than 20 pounds and moves 475 cfm of air with a Kawasaki engine.

Circle 234 on reader service card

The 452 MVB hand-held blower from Poulan Pro

has a 32-cc DuraChrome engine for a maximum air velocity of 180 mph.

Circle 235 on reader service card

The EB480 backpack blower from Shindaiwa features a noise rating of 69 decibels with an air volume performance of 415 cfm. Circle 236 on reader service card

Stihl's BG75 blower/vacuum has a 25.4-cc engine producing an air flow rate of 377 cfm and weighs 9.8 pounds.

Circle 237 on reader service card

The 43-cc engine on the Tanaka TBL-4600 backpack blower delivers 500 cfm of air volume at speeds up to 200 mph.

Circle 238 on reader service card

The Toro Lawn Vac fills a 9-cubic-foot collection bag and is powered by a 5-hp Briggs & Stratton engine.

Circle 239 on reader service card

Trac Vac's Model CV385 vaccum chips. limbs and branches up to 21/2 inches thick. Circle 240 on reader service card

ing homework and get the job done," instructed Pendergrast. "This has to be a joint effort to clean them up and quiet them down."

Janiak added that contractors should be sure to use only the amount of power necessary for each specific job. "Most blowers will do the job at half to three-quarters speed. especially the walk-behinds," he said.

Fernald also indicated some basic technician training can allow them to operate blowers efficiently at less than full throttle. "Technicians should pay attention to direct the air in such a way to move the material instead of blowing down on top of it," he noted.

Manufacturers hope responsible use of blowers and vacuums by contractors will calm some of the fiery protesting and give them time to develop quality machines. "Otherwise, it's the contractors who are going to have to sacrifice," warned Hardee.

The author is Assistant Editor of Lawn & Landscape magazine.

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AREYOU READY FORTHE SNOW?

There are few things as threatening to a contractor's business as broken equipment. If the equipment doesn't work, no one's making any money except the competition.

This is especially true for contractors offering snow removal services, when the amount of time for work is limited to when it snows.

A broken plow or a spreader that is out of commission for a few days can cause you to lose valuable time when the first snowfalls come in the winter.

Snow equipment manufacturers emphasize the value of



preventive maintenance, including a thorough inspection and test of all winter equipment well before it is needed.

"All of the equipment should be tested and prepared well before the first storm arrives," recommended Greg Daniels, president of Daniels

Pull Plow, East Dundee, Ill. "Too many contractors wait until the day before it's supposed to snow to get their equipment ready to work."

POWER OF THE PLOW, Each manufacturer may have different tips for plow mainte-

Manufacturers remind contractors to examine the truck, since attaching a plow adds stress to its body. **Credit: Western Products**

nance, but they all agree on the importance of it and note that too many contractors don't recognize the need for plow maintenance. "A fresh coat of paint may make the plow look nice," noted Daniels, "but it takes a lot more to get it ready for winter."

Both Daniels and Gary Dwinal, technical service manager for Western Products, Rockland, Maine, had numerous recommendations for properly maintaining snow plows of any style:

· Check oil level and belt alignment for the oil pump.

(continued on page 58)





Performance is the best one word description of the Goossen Chipper/Shredder.

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WINTER

When the deep freeze hits, arm yourself with the Model P deicing spreader. Mounted in the back of a standard pickup, the Model P's 8.5 hp engine uniformly casts material up to 40 feet and is ideal for spreading salt and sand on parking lots, driveways, cul-de-sacs, and streets.



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SPRING

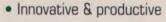
The AG-18 eliminates winter's left-over leaves and spring's fresh grass clippings with its 18 hp vacuum and 18' in-take hose. The AG-18 topper, combined with the fully-hydraulic Dump "E" dump box, is either installed in a standard pickup or pulled on a trailer. Or, remove the topper to use the Dump "E" alone as a dump box for all-season use. Its 6,000 lb. lift capability and triple-action tailgate allows for spreading and hauling a variety of materials.



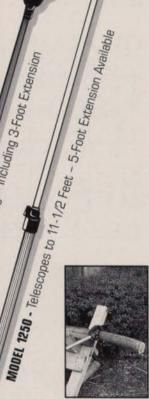
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(continued from page 56)

- · Check the cutting edge and shoes for wear.
- · Check the oil pump pressure and the oil filter in the hydraulics.
- · Check the lift chain.
- · Check all pins and bolts for tightness.
- · Check that all lights work and align them properly.

TEST THE TRUCK. Contractors planning to mount a plow on a truck should also be sure not to ignore the extra weight strain it places on the truck body.

Dwinal also had a list of recommendations for truck maintenance:

Snow equipment manufacturers emphasize preventive maintenance and a thorough examination of winter equipment well before it will be needed.

- · Check all lights, tires and fluid levels.
- · Check the battery and charging system.
- · Place counter balancing weight in the back of the vehicle.

Daniels reminded contractors to check under the truck. "It's important to check the welds to see that they are all good and that the undercarriage



Check all of the wiring, cable connections and bolts, as well as the spreader itself, before using each winter. **Credit: Highway Equipment**

of the truck hasn't loosened up," he noted. "It's also a must that the U-joints on the front end of the truck be in good condition. If there's any bit of play in them, I would change the U-joints right away, or it will end up costing more in the long run."

SPREADER CHECKS. For truck

mounted spreaders, Bill Nero, president of Central Parts Warehouse, Orland Park, Ill., recommends contractors remove and clean all cable connections and sand the terminals if necessary. "They should also use dielectric grease on any plug-in type of connections," he added, "and make sure control box cables are plugged into the ground cable clean and tight."

He offered additional recommendations for preparing spreaders for rough winter use:

- · Check all bolts for tightness and wear.
- · Install the spreader and test it before the season starts.
- · Check the wires along the frame rails to ensure they aren't pinched or melted on the surface of a muffler.
- · Make sure the wires are secure. - Bob West



GROTECH spreaders make snow and ice control a real money maker! The Grotech Swing Away TGS 100 Spreader mounts to any pickup and still allows full tailgate access. Remove one hinge pin, swing the spreader out and use the tailgate! Load snowblowers or forklift pallets of salt; it's quick and easy.

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Circle 225 on reader service card



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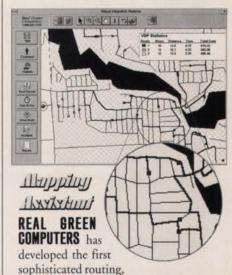
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Turbo Turf Hydro Seeding Systems from BADGER ASSOCIATES allow one person to apply seed, mulch and fertilizer in a fast, easy step. The HS-300-E will blend a load of materials nearly instantly. Each load will seed approximately 4,000 square feet and can be sprayed on in about 12 minutes. Nearly any type of seed, fertilizer and hydro mulch may be used. The HS-300-E is a skidmounted unit that will fit inside the bed of a pickup, or may be trailer mounted. The complete system, ready to operate, is priced at \$3,995. Other models are available from 50- to 1,600-gallon capacity.

Circle 228 on reader service card



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The Z Master™ Z222 Hydro zero-radius tractor mower from Toro is equipped with a 22-hp Kohler® Command vertical shaft engine to cover 25 acres a day at speeds reaching 8 mph.

Available with a 52-inch Recycler® deck or 52- and 60inch side discharge decks, the Z Master has hydrostatic drive and 22-inch drive tires.

Circle 201 on reader service card

The router-type cutting head of the MacKissic CPSC stump cutter is powered by a 5.5-hp Honda, a 5.5-hp Vanguard or a 9-hp Vanguard engine. A swing over adjustable handle enables the 180-pound, 25-



inch wide CPSC to work as both a front and rear cutter. Circle 202 on reader service card

The Snow Wolf skid loader snowplow system is available in seven sizes between 6 feet and 9 feet and hydraulically angles 32.5 degrees left and right in three seconds. Solid link framing allows full down pressure in either direction of travel while the full trip cutting edge protects the machine from damage.

Circle 203 on reader service card

Hadco's NightLife® landscape lighting line includes a composite Bullyte designed

specifically for PAR 30 halogen and metal halide lamps. The BC3's color impregnated composites give the light a long-lasting finish while the field adjustable socket accepts short or long neck lamps. Circle 204 on reader service card

Hunter Industries' SRV valve for residential installations is a 1-inch plastic globe made of longlasting PVC. The valve,



which operates within a flow range of 1 to 30 gpm and a pressure range of 20 to 150 psi, also includes a heavy duty solenoid and a diaphragm

The OB Series blowers from Billy Goat Industries have a 14blade fan and rounded housing to reduce noise. Fan blade design is said to help reduce operator fatigue. Available engines include Briggs & Stratton models from 5- to 16-hp and Hondas in 8- and 11-hp sizes. Other features include a shock absorbing handle and a movable discharge chute. Circle 200 on reader service card

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Circle 206 on reader service card

The Hurricane® Plus Series walk-behind wheeled blowers from **Parker Sweeper** create air volume up to 2,200 cfm with

various engines and is made of 12-gauge steel. A hand controlled deflector adjusts to direct air flow through front or side discharges, while a front grill provides silencing and debris deflection.

Circle 207 on reader service card

LITERATURE

cho's 56-page color catalog highlights products ranging from trimmers and edgers to snow throwers. Each is shown with specifications.

Gircle 208 on reader service card

How to Prune and Care for Your Trees is a 12page booklet from **Technic Tool** covering subjects ranging from fertilizing to pruning safety tips. **Circle 209 on reader service card**

An eight-page brochure from Excel highlights the Hustler 4000 Series front mount mowers. It also

covers many available attachments for these mowers.

Circle 210 on reader service card

Westheffer's brochure features pesticide spraying equipment along with information about each model. Ordering information covers products from Green Garde, Hudson and Flowmaster.

Circle 211 on reader service card

The Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Spark Plug Application Catalog from Champion lists 74 pages of products for mowers, chain saws, lighting, pumps and other landscape equipment.

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LowVib™ anti-vibration system.
Gircle 213 on reader service card

The **Zipper-TS™** Model TS2293K74SD mower has a 22-hp Kohler Command J.D. Safety Work Pants from **Shawnmark Industries** protect workers from knee injuries with built-in foam knee pads for working on hard surfaces. The abrasive resistant, completely waterproof sheathing on the knees and seat of the pants also keeps workers dry.

Circle 214 on reader service card

leading to a mouthpiece which clips to the worker's clothing for easy access. Circle 217 on reader service card

engine with a 74-inch wide side discharge deck. A 5.5- and 11bushel grass collection attachment is available, as well as a mulching kit.

Circle 215 on reader service card

Sustane's Bolster plant growth supplement is available in 3-pound water soluble packages



for treating various warm- and cool-season turfgrasses. Bolster basic is also offered in 1-pound water soluble packets and liquid form for ornamental applications.

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Circle 218 on reader service card

(continued on page 66)



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NEW PRODUCTS

(continued from page 64)

Daewoo Equipment's DSL 601 Tiger skid-steer loader has a 1,300-pound capacity with a



4-cylinder, 41-hp industrial diesel engine with a direct injection fuel system. Standard equipment includes flotation tires, operating lights, auxiliary hydraulics and a rear cab window for visibility.

Circle 219 on reader service card

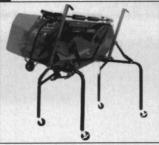
Mycoject, a systemic, lowexposure **J.J. Mauget** tree injection product, places oxytetracycline into the vascular system of the tree to counter pathogen attacks. Mycoject counters bacterial diseases of ornamental trees such as ash and palm yellows.

Circle 220 on reader service card

A 5.5-hp OHV Kawasaki engine powers **Snapper's** CP21550KWV 21-inch mower with self-propelled drive, full pressure lubrication and a

lubrication and a spin-on oil filter. The mower is equipped with a Hi-Vac® deck for enhanced bagging and mulching performance and also converts to side discharge.

Circle 221 on reader service card



McGanse Engineering's Deck Kart makes removal, servicing and reinstallation of mower decks safe and easy. The Kart supports 32- to 74-inch decks

DowElanco's Gallery™ 75 dry flowable preemergence herbicide is said to prevent 95 broadleaf weeds such as dandelion and chickweed for up to eight months without injury to existing broadleaf or grass landscape species. It has received interim registration in California.

Circle 222 on reader service card

weighing up to 400 pounds and tips up and locks at a 70-degree angle for top and bottom access. Four 4-inch wheels move the unit around easily.

Circle 223 on reader service card

Classen's Model TS-20 turf seeder can seed a new lawn, overseed an existing lawn or



function as a vertical cutter by cutting slits in the turf. An optional flail blade assembly easily converts the unit into a turf rake.

Circle 224 on reader service card







ICD's StoneWall SELECT® retaining walls provide the natural look of hewn stone in a stackable, mortar-free wall system of unparalleled versatility. With one system you can build circular, serpentine or straight walls. Steps, 90-degree corners and landscape lighting can easily be incorporated into wall designs. When combined with soil-reinforcing geogrids, walls over 30 feet high can be constructed. StoneWall SELECT weighs less than other alternatives, and the profile is user-friendly to the installer. The system provides a builtin batter. StoneWall SELECT is made of durable, high-strength concrete and will last a lifetime.



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seed harvest report

(continued from page 29)

acres are all planted up," he noted.

Perennial ryegrasses will also be tight, and Stanley reported that there have been mixed reviews on the overall harvest.

In addition, he was concerned about an extended rainstorm that was delaying completion of the ryegrass harvest, which he estimated was about 50 percent complete. The delay will make it difficult to get the seed cleaned and shipped to customers when it is needed, he said.

Among the company's new releases will be Discovery, a hard fescue that performed well in National Turf Evaluation Program trials, Citation III and Catalina perennial ryegrasses and Tarheel tall fescue, which was developed and screened for brown patch resistance.

ZAJAC PERFORMANCE SEEDS, N. HALEDON, N.J.

All varieties are looking at above average to average yields, according to president John Zajac. The terrible K-31 harvest, high demand and low acreage should escalate prices on turf-type tall fescue in particular. Perennial ryegrass pricing should be firm due to low inventories and some herbicide and flood related damage that occurred in the fall and winter.

Zajac will be offering Snowbird, a new poa trivialis variety for overseeding bermudagrass in the Southeast from Florida through the Southwest to Texas that is low growing, dark green and compatible with perennial ryegrasses.

Two new Kentucky bluegrasses will also be available this fall. Dellwood is said to be strong against summer heat and drought stress and billbug damage, and Dragon features dark green color with improved density and wear resistance and early green-up. Omega III perennial ryegrass is in its first commercial production this fall.

The author is Managing Editor of Lawn & Landscape magazine.

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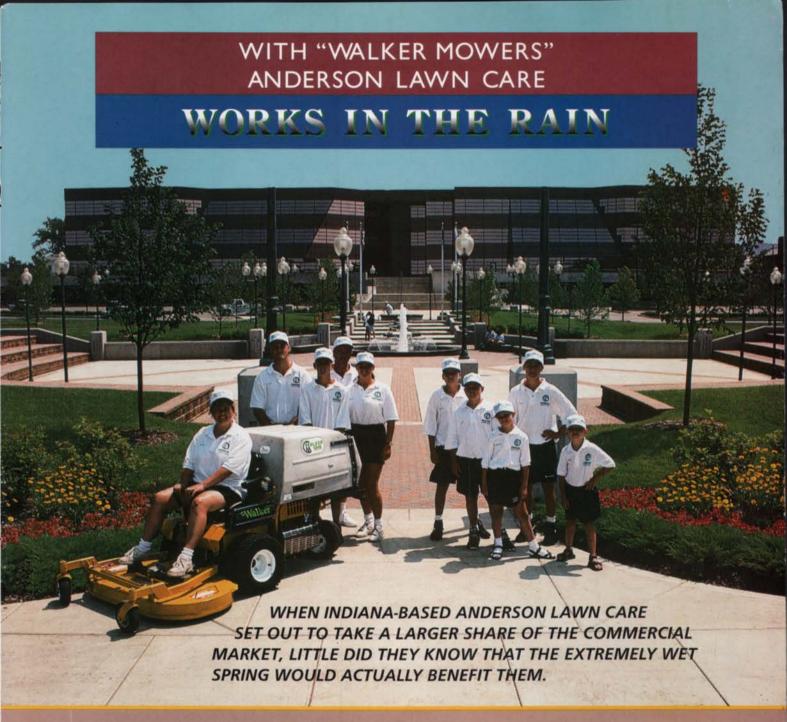
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